

It's time for the people's House to stop the madness; and so this week I joined with Judiciary Committee Ranking Member CONYERS to reintroduce a constitutional amendment, House Joint Resolution 78, to reclaim Congress and to regulate corporate expenditures.

#### EMPOWERING PARENTS THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT

(Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents Through Quality Charter Schools Act.

This bill strikes close to home for me and my district in Arkansas where one charter school program, the Knowledge is Power Program, or KIPP, as it is called, has had a profound impact on the lives of its students and their families.

In one of the poorest cities in America, the town of Helena-West Helena has instituted a charter school that empowers students from high poverty communities to develop the character, knowledge, and skills necessary to follow their dreams and, more importantly, learn to value a life in pursuit of knowledge and truth.

KIPP students go above and beyond what is required; and for that, our country is a better place. These students have their parents and teachers to thank. They are always accessible and always committed to their education and their well-being. The KIPP approach shows that high standards overcome the obstacles created by socioeconomic and circumstances, as evidenced by KIPP Delta's first graduating class, 100 percent of which now attend college, and the establishment of a new KIPP school in Blytheville, Arkansas.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill so children and their families all across the country have the opportunity to empower their own lives, their families, and their communities.

#### JOBS NOW

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, President Obama has offered the American Jobs Act, a clear path forward to putting our country back to work, helping small businesses succeed and hire and providing tax relief for our workers and rebuilding America. The emphasis of the plan is immediate action that will preserve and create jobs now. It will put money into the pockets of working Americans now, and it will give businesses job-creating tax breaks now. It will provide a boost to the economy that we need now.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for Democrats and Republicans to work together and with our President to put the country

back to work. The American people literally can't afford to wait a single day more. It's time to pass the American Jobs Act now.

#### RESPONSIBLE CHOICES

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, in these dire financial times, government must identify what works and what doesn't, even when it comes to sex education for our kids.

The CDC released a fascinating study this year that found that two-thirds of teens, ages 15 to 17, are abstaining from sex. In fact, 70 percent of parents support abstinence until marriage for their teens.

But under this administration, we have seen a troubling 16:1 funding disparity between contraceptive-centered education and sexual risk avoidance education.

That's why last week I filed a bill, H.R. 2874, to restore fairness to the funding and direct it instead to programs which give our kids the facts about contraception without distorting them.

I am a dad of four great kids, two of them teenagers. I have a 15-year-old daughter, Kylie, and a 17-year-old son, Karsten, who may, in fact, be watching right now. Nothing is more important to me than seeing them make responsible choices. I have every confidence that they will. Now I'm just hoping the House and Senate will do the same.

#### JOBS

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, we are in a time of national economic crisis. There are 14 million Americans without a job. There are another 12 million who wish they could work but have given up looking altogether.

That's why last week President Obama presented Congress with an urgent proposal to create jobs and fix the economy. Republican economist Mark Zandi declared the President's plan would keep the U.S. from sliding back into the recession, add two points to the GDP, and add 1.9 million jobs. This plan is based on bipartisan proposals, and it won't add a dime to the deficit.

After 9 months of taking over the House, Republicans have not presented a single jobs bill. It's well past time for them to put politics aside and come together with Democrats to put the country back to work. With so many people suffering, we must act and we must act now.

#### REDUCING HURDLES TO JOB GROWTH

(Mr. PALAZZO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, Mississippi is a great place to live, work, and raise a family; and I want to keep it that way. Mississippi is a proud right-to-work State. My State has attracted and continues to attract high-tech economic development projects and advanced manufacturing facilities.

At a time when more than 14 million workers are unemployed, we must do everything possible to remove government barriers to job creation and economic growth. As South Carolina knows too well, the National Labor Relations Board is stifling job creation, and their Federal intrusion must be restrained.

The Protecting Jobs from Government Interference Act will prohibit the NLRB from dictating where a private sector employer can locate. This is good for job seekers as well as job creators. Without restraint, all States, especially right-to-work States like my Mississippi, will be negatively impacted. We like to work in Mississippi and we like jobs, and we want more of them, not less.

#### SUPPORT AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of President Obama's American Jobs Act. As a senior member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I am especially glad to see that the President has maintained his unwavering commitment to modernizing America's infrastructure. Our roads, bridges, highways, and transit systems support millions of jobs throughout the country that are crucial to strengthening our economy.

The establishment of a national infrastructure bank is a bipartisan proposal that I have been a strong proponent of for many years. More recently, I have learned that my senior Senator is also very supportive. This bank would leverage private and capital funds to invest in infrastructure projects of a national significance. It's public and private partnerships like this that make our country succeed, and we need more of them. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure.

God bless the troops, God bless America, and God bless the Members of the people's House to rise above partisanship and be bipartisan in addressing the people's problems.

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#### GOOD JOBS NOW

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, today, members of the Progressive Caucus stood up and displayed a videotape in